



May 4, 2015

Michigan State House Transportation Committee
c/o Representative Jim Runestad
Michigan's 44th House District

RE: HB 4458

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB4458 to amend PA 51 for the purposes of discontinuing the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC). On January 29, 2015 a letter was transmitted to Governor Snyder, Majority Leader Meekhof, Speaker Cotter, and Chairman Jung respectfully requesting that the State Legislature sunset the provisions of Act 51 that established the CSAC. Council members felt that their charge, as had been set forth in Section 10p of Act 51, had been satisfied and that our collective work as an appointed body was no longer required.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to work with a wonderful group of appointees and MDOT staff on such a worthy cause. Ensuring that Michigan intentionally continues on the path of creating Complete Streets is important for the State's economic recovery. All of our citizens need to have equal access to transportation options that will allow people to get to work, school, health care, places of worship, and meet their daily shopping needs.

In these times of fiscal challenges for our public infrastructure, some may consider non-automobile related investments in transit and non-motorized facilities for biking and walking to be frivolous. Last May, two-thirds (66.3%) of Grand Rapidsians voted to invest in city streets as Complete Streets. This investment creates capacity within the transportation system by better utilizing all modes – thereby providing an overall reduction in expensive construction and long-term maintenance costs of motorized facilities. I encourage the State Legislature to consider how to leverage constrained resources to build our communities utilizing a Complete Streets approach. These assets, in turn, aid in the attraction and retention of a strong workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne Schulz".

Suzanne M. Schulz, Chair
Complete Streets Advisory Council, MML Representative
City of Grand Rapids Managing Director of Design and Development

